

I have never known of a specimen taken before on the Kankakee Marshes. As they do not appear in any numbers at the southern end of Lake Michigan until early in December, an unusually early record is one killed at Calumet Heights, Ind., near the lake shore, on Oct. 29, 1898, by Dr. A. W. Harlan. — RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

White-winged Scoters (*Oidemia deglandi*).—I am informed that a large flight of adult White-winged Scoters going south was seen at Cohasset, Massachusetts, Oct. 2, 1898. The birds were flying high, with a gentle southeast wind. A dense fog in the afternoon prevented them from being seen, up to which time the flight continued. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Gallinago major versus Gallinago media.—In 'The Auk,' for April, 1897, Dr. Coues sets forth the proper claims of the Greater Snipe to a place in the A. O. U. Check-List, to which it has accordingly been admitted by the Committee (*Auk*, Jan., 1899, XVI, 105), under the name *Gallinago major* (Gmelin). But as Dr. Coues himself admits, *major* is not the earliest name for the species; yet in spite of this he urges its adoption,—a clear violation of the law of priority. *Scolopax media* Frisch (Vorst. Vög. Deutschl., 1763, pl. 228) as also *Gallinago media* Gerini (Orn. Meth. Dig., 1773, IV, 59, pl. cdxlvi) seem to apply to this bird, and although I have not been able to verify these references, there is apparently no valid reason for rejecting the specific name they impose. Even should this not be so, *media* must still be used for the species, since *Scolopax media* Latham, Gen. Syn. Suppl., 1787, I, 292, is of undoubted pertinence, and antedates *Scolopax major* Gmelin by one year. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington D. C.*

Sexual Difference in Size of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa maculata*).—I have for a number of summers noticed that the local shore bird gunners at Newport and Jamestown, R. I., speak of two sizes of Pectoral Sandpipers or, as they call the bird, Kreikers. They go so far as not only to say this is a big or little Kreiker after the bird is in hand, but say here comes a big or little one as the bird is seen flying toward the blind. I have just examined a large series, fifty specimens, from throughout the range of the species including both spring and autumn birds, in regard to this point of size and find that twenty-five females average: Wing, 4.95; tarsus, 1.05; and bill, 1.07; and twenty-five males: Wing, 5.45; tarsus, 1.11; bill, 1.12; or, that in the males the wing averages .50, the tarsus, .06, and the bill .05 larger than in the females. Mr. H. B. Bigelow, who has taken a great number of these birds, calls my attention to the fact that the little and big, that is females and males, flock together and that the little birds always appear in the autumn a week or so before the big ones; the latter has not been my experience. I cannot find a manual